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Message Text

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53
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 AID-05 IO-13 ACDA-07 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 /097 W
---------- 050764
R 131600Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7918
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONBON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ETRN, IN, BC
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KHAMA DISCUSSES SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES IN INDIA AND AGAIN MENTIONS INDIAN HELP FOR THE RAILROAD

REF: A) GABORONE 682, B) GABORONE 651, C) 74 GABORONE 1311 (NOTAL) D) 74 GABORONE 1275 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. APRIL 13 EDITION OF BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS CARRIED REPORT OF RETURN OF PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA (REF A). INCLUDED IN STORY WAS COVERAGE OF A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY PRESIDEN
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KHAMA IN BANGALORE, INDIA, "LAST WEEK." IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE,
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PRESIDENT KHAMA MENTIONED AGAIN THAT BOTSWANA WOULD ASK INDIA

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FOR ASSISTANCE IN TECHNICAL FIELDS. KHAMA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GOB INTENDED TO TAKE OVER THE RHODESAIN OPERATED RAILWAY LINE RUNNING THROUGH BOTSWANA AND "WILL LOOK TO INDIA FOR HELP IN TRAINING OF MANAGERS AND PARA-ENGINEERS (SIC) FOR THE RAILWAYS."

2. THE STORY ALSO REPORTS DISCUSSION OF RHODEESIAN QUESTION IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT IS REPORTED AS RULING OUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH IAN SMITH, SAYING "MANY OF US NOW BELIEVE THAT ONLY FORCE ... CAN CHANGE IAN SMITH'S BELIEF THAT MAJORITY RULE WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE DURING HIS LIFETIME." KHAMA ADDED THAT ONCE THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAVE CONSOLIDATED THEIR LEADERSHIP AND ACQUIRED ENOUGHT WEAPONRY THEY WILL DEFEAT IAN SMITH.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA, THE PRESIDENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE ACCUSED SOUTH AFRICA OF FLOUTING UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS AND RECENTLY CONVENING "AN ILLEGAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION" WHERE THE "MAIN LIBERATION MOVEMENT SWAPO" HAS BEEN EXCLUDED.

4. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA EVER APPLIED ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON BOTSWANA BY SAYING THAT THERE WERE "NO ECONOMIC PRESSURES" BASICALLY BECAUSE SOUTH AFRICA "COULD NOT AFFORD" TO "FURTHER IRRITATE INTERNATIONAL OPINION". END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA IN SEPTEMBER 1974 PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION EVENTUALLY TO TAKE OVER THE RHODESIAN RAILWAYS LINE IN BOTSWANA AND NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON SINCE THAT TIME WITH RHODESIAN RAILWAYS AUTHORITIES (REFS C AND D). KHAMA'S REFERENCES TO THE RAILROAD SHOULD BE VIEWED AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND. END LOU.
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Message Attributes

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Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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